

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-17 and 43-47 are pending. Claims 1, are amended. New claims 48 through 50 are added. Amendments to the claims are supported by paragraphs 57 through 60 of the originally-filed specification and Figure 4B. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 15, 17, 43-44 and 46-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vachon (U.S. 5,833,715). In accordance with the foregoing amendments, the presently claimed catheter includes a seal and a probe, "the probe comprising a protruded portion that mates with the seal to prevent fluid flow into the catheter body and restrict extension of the probe from the distal end of the catheter body." In the Vachon reference, a shaft portion of an electrical interconnect passes through a resilient ring seal 96 to prevent bodily fluids from penetrating through the center of the pacing lead. Applicant submits that the seal ring interacts with the shaft portion. Vachon fails to teach that the shaft includes a protruded portion that mates with the seal to prevent fluid penetration. The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach, suggest or imply a catheter comprising a seal and a probe, the probe comprising a protruded portion that mates with the seal to prevent fluid flow into the catheter body as presently claimed. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits the pending claims are novel and inventive over the prior art.

Applicant asserts that the remarks presented herein are fully responsive to the Office Action and are sufficient to overcome the rejections presented in the Office Action. However, there may be other arguments to be made as to why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant does not concede any such arguments by having not presented them herein. Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution. The Commissioner is authorized to

charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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